



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVES RIDLEY-THOMAS MOTION ALLOWING MEETINGS TO BE HOSTED ANYWHERE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Will Allow Board to Meet in Unincorporated Areas and 87 Additional Municipalities

Los Angeles—The Board of Supervisors today unanimously approved a motion by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas allowing regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Supervisors to be held at locations outside of the City of Los Angeles. Prior to today's vote, the Board of Supervisors was only permitted to hold its regularly scheduled meetings in the City of Los Angeles, not in the County's unincorporated areas or additional 87 municipalities. The new policy, which will greatly increase the public's access to government, is the result of one of Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' first recommendations upon being elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2008.

"This new policy allows us to promote civic engagement and empowerment by bringing government back into the community. You shouldn't have to travel all the way to downtown Los Angeles to make your voice heard," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

The Board of Supervisors and the County's Chief Executive Officer have worked for nearly two years to amend the County code, which had previously mandated that regular Board of Supervisors meetings be held only at the County seat in the City of Los Angeles. As the policy was also required by State Law, the County sought and received permission from the State Legislature to change the local ordinance, which was accomplished by Assembly Bill 139 and signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on July 6, 2010.

"As elected leaders, we must constantly seek ways to improve public access to government. This is a common-sense way to allow more people—many for the first time—to participate in the decisions that affect their daily lives."

The new policy will take effect on January 1, 2011.

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